



**STATE OF MINNESOTA  
Minnesota Department of Commerce**

**Issued October 15, 2007**



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**NOTICE OF  
OPEN HOUSE  
AND  
PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING**

**Thursday, November 1, 2007  
5:30 p.m. Open House  
6:30 p.m. Public Information Meeting**

**Comfrey Community Center  
Comfrey, MN**

**DRAFT SITE PERMIT AVAILABLE  
For the Proposed Comfrey Wind Energy Project  
MPUC Docket No. IP6630/WS-07-318**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that Comfrey Wind Energy, LLC (the Applicant) has applied to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for a site permit to build and operate a 31.5 Megawatt (MW) large wind energy conversion system (LWECS) near Comfrey, Minnesota.

The Minnesota Department of Commerce (DOC) Energy Facilities Permitting Unit will hold a public information meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 1, 2007 at the Comfrey Community Center. The meeting will provide an overview of the state's wind energy site permitting process and the proposed draft site permit for the Comfrey Wind project. The public information meeting and comment period will provide the public an opportunity to ask questions about the project, the process and the draft site permit. Representatives of DOC and the applicant will be at the meeting to describe the proposed project and answer questions.

Prior to the public information meeting, the applicant will host an open house beginning at 5:30 p.m. The applicant's representatives will be available at the open house to discuss the project and answer questions.

**Project Description**

The applicant proposes to build a 31.5 MW LWECS utilizing 15 Suzlon Energy S-88 2.1 MW wind turbine generators mounted on freestanding tubular steel towers. The rotor diameter will be approximately 288 feet. The turbines are approximately 262 feet (80 meters) at hub height, with a maximum overall height of the wind turbines of approximately 397 feet when a turbine blade is in the vertical position. An electrical system consisting of 34.5 kV collection lines routed to the new Comfrey Wind Substation will deliver the power to the grid. Other project associated facilities will include pad mounted step-up transformers and access roads.

### **Proposed Site Location**

As shown on the accompanying map, the proposed project site is located approximately one mile west of the city of Comfrey and includes a portion of Bashaw Township in Brown County and portions of Selma Township in Cottonwood County. The total wind plant project site and land easements cover approximately 3,940 acres. The total development consists of approximately 15 acres of land that will be taken out of agricultural production for turbines and access roads.

### **MPUC Site Permit Review Process**

Comfrey Wind Energy, LLC, filed a site permit application with the PUC for the project on July 20, 2007, and it was accepted by the Commission in an order dated August 9, 2007. Copies of the Comfrey Wind Energy site permit application have been distributed to affected landowners, township, county and state officials.

The PUC determined that a permit may be issued in this case and issued a draft site permit on September 7, 2007. The DOC is now initiating the public participation process on the site permit application under the Wind Siting Act (Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 216F) and the Wind Permitting Rules (Minnesota Rules, Chapter 7836). No separate environmental review document will be prepared under this process. Upon completion of the public participation process, the DOC will present the record of this matter to the PUC for a final decision.

### **Public Comments**

Copies of the application and draft site permit are available for review at the Auditor's Offices in Brown and Cottonwood counties, and the city offices in Comfrey.

The site permit application, draft site permit and the agency rules guiding the review process are available on the PUC website at:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19254>

Interested persons may comment on the site permit application and draft site permit at the public meeting or may submit written or fax (651-297-7891) comments by 4:30 p.m. on **November 21, 2007. Please include the following docket number (IP 6630/WS-07-318).** Written or fax comments should be directed to: Sharon Ferguson, Department of Commerce, 85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198.

### **DOC Project Contacts**

Questions about the project and the PUC permitting process may be directed to: Suzanne Steinhauer, Minnesota Department of Commerce, 85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, MN 55101-2198; Tel: 651-296-2888; Fax: 651-297-7891; e-mail: [suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us](mailto:suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us). Adam Sokolski, with the DOC staff, has been appointed as the public advisor to assist and advise citizens on how to participate in the site permit process. He can be contacted at: Tel: 651-296-2096; or e-mail: [adam.sokolski@state.mn.us](mailto:adam.sokolski@state.mn.us) and the mailing address above.

Questions about the Comfrey Wind Energy, LLC, Site Permit Application can also be directed to the applicant by contacting the company's developer Mr. David Norgaard at 507-247-5672.

### **Contested Case Hearing Request**

Any person may request a contested case hearing in this matter. All contested case hearing requests must be filed with Sharon Ferguson (address above) in writing by 4:30 p.m. on **November 21, 2007**. The person requesting the contested case hearing must list the issues to be addressed in the hearing and the reasons why a contested case hearing is required to resolve those issues. The PUC shall order a contested case hearing if it finds that a material issue of fact has been raised and that the

This topographic map depicts the Bashaw area in Oregon. The map is bounded by coordinates 94°58.000' W to 94°53.000' W and 44°09.000' N to 44°05.000' N. Key features include the Bashaw State WMA, the town of Comfrey, and the intersection of County Road 7 and County Hwy 17. The map shows various roads, including US Highway 258, and terrain features such as hills and water bodies. A scale bar at the bottom indicates distances in miles (0.0 to 3.5) and kilometers (0 to 5).